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102 Civilian Deaths, Including 11 Children and 14 Women as well as Five Deaths due to Torture, Documented in Syria in March 2024

58 Civilians Killed, Including Three
Children and 12 Women, While
Gathering Desert Truffles
Since the Beginning of 2024

Monday 01 April 2024

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

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I. Background and Methodology

This report documents the civilian deaths that were recorded by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place in Syria at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in March 2024. The report sheds light particularly on those victims who died due to torture, and victims among medical personnel, as well as focusing on documenting the massacres perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria which the SNHR team was able to document during this period; it should be noted that we use the term, 'massacre' to refer to an incident in which no fewer than five peaceful individuals were killed. The report also includes a summary of the most notable incidents that took place during this month. Full details of every incident are archived on the SNHR database.

This report catalogues the death toll of victims who died at the hands of the parties actively engaged in the Syrian conflict. In this context, accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. We also face additional challenges in assigning responsibility for attacks in some incidents of ground-based bombardment, especially those in which the bombardment originates from an area adjacent to the one targeted, which is controlled by a different party to the perpetrator. In such cases, SNHR tries to thoroughly investigate each incident, in order to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

Despite these efforts, however, there are cases in which we are unable to definitively assign culpability for a particular killing to one of two possible parties due to the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons by different parties, or other reasons. In such cases, the incident is classified under the category 'other parties' until such time as we have gathered sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility for the violation to one of the two parties.

While we at the SNHR are keen to accurately ascribe responsibility for incidents to the relevant parties, we exclude two types of attacks from the process of assigning responsibility, namely anti-personnel landmines, and remote explosions, including suicide or forced suicide attacks. We discussed this issue previously in [detailed reports](#).

As for the anonymous victims whose names we have not yet been able to determine or regarding whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information or any picture or video footage, these cases are catalogued in a separate archive until any information confirming these victims' identity is received which would enable their cases to be transferred to the victims' archive, with their names and other details registered accordingly.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document in the past month, March 2024. SNHR does not document the deaths of fighters and militants killed during the conflict, while some of the victims documented may have been killed months or even years ago, as in some cases of death due to torture; in these cases, where the deaths have only recently been confirmed, we include two dates, the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we believe the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by SNHR in documenting the victims can be found at this link.¹

1. Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), *Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology*
http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf

This report draws upon the constant daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information supplied by our extensive network of various sources which has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. The SNHR also provides [a special form](#) that can be completed by victims' relatives with victims' names and personal information so that the Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy and then include it in the database.

Our investigations confirm that all the attacks included in this report that were carried out by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria targeted civilian areas where we documented no military presence or armories before or during the attacks. Also, the perpetrators of these attacks failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.

There are many additional steps and challenges to take into account in the process of documenting civilian deaths, which we've detailed in our methodology that can be found at this link. We've opted to shed light on some aspects of these challenges in order to ensure the report is kept to a manageable length.

The information included in this report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations documented. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications of these events.



II. Brief on the Most Notable Incidents of Killing in March

In March, we documented the killing of **102 civilians**, including 11 children and 14 women. Below are a number of observations regarding the events that marked this month:

A. Other parties

In March, we documented the killing of **80 civilians**, including six children and 13 women, at the hands of other parties. Seventy-eight percent of all civilian deaths documented in March were at the hands of other parties, with Raqqqa governorate accounting for about 36 percent of all these victims, followed by the two governorates of Deir Ez-Zour and Daraa with about 25 percent each. Some noteworthy incidents include:

- We documented the killing of **40 civilians**, including one child and 13 women, while gathering desert truffles. Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 58 civilians, including three children and, have been killed while harvesting desert truffles. Furthermore, we recorded two massacres that took place while victims were harvesting desert truffles in Raqqqa governorate. The first, in which 13 civilians, 12 of them women, were killed, was caused by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source. In the second, meanwhile, nine civilians were shot dead by unidentified gunmen. It should be noted that areas where desert truffles grow are under the control of Syrian regime forces and pro-regime Iranian militias, who impose a monopoly over the desert truffles trade, with disputes and infighting arising among these forces as a result ISIS also has a presence in these areas.
- On Sunday, March 23, 2024, the bodies of two men bearing gunshot wounds, who were identified as Hussein al-Fandi and Ahmad al-Salem, were found by local residents near the badiya or desert area around Ma'dan in eastern Raqqqa governorate. The two men had gone missing while searching for desert truffles two days before. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
- In March, we documented the deaths of **28 civilians**, including two children and 11 women, caused by the explosion of landmines of unidentified source. With March's toll included, this means 55 civilians, including nine children and 13 women, have been killed by landmines since the beginning of this year.
- On Saturday, March 2, an unidentified 10-year-old boy was killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source in the vicinity of al-Sharka village in northern rural Raqqqa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) at the time of the incident.
- In March, gunfire of unidentified source killed **35 civilians**, including one child and woman, or about 44 percent of all victims killed by other parties this month. Those victims were killed in the governorates of Daraa, Raqqqa, Deir Ez-Zour, Homs, Idlib, and Aleppo.

- On Saturday, March 2, 2024, the bodies of two men bearing gunshot wounds, [identified as Khaled Ibeid al-Otour and Rahil Mohammad al-Rahil](#), both shepherds originally from Abu Hanaya village in eastern rural Hama governorate, were found by local residents in the eastern Jub al-Jrah area in eastern rural Homs governorate. The two men had gone missing two days before. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
- On Friday, March 22, [four civilians were shot dead by unidentified gunmen](#), in a house in their home city of al-Sanamayn in northern Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
- A total of 11 civilians, including one woman, were killed by other parties in the month of March. On Tuesday, March 26, [Emad Shehab, a 42-year-old architect and graduate of Aleppo University's Architecture Department](#), was killed in an aerial attack of as yet unidentified source. The attack targeted a house in al-Qosour neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour city which was being used by pro-regime Iranian militias. Adnan, who was near the house at the time, was hit and killed by flying shrapnel. Emad Shehab was a World Health Organization (WHO) employee, who had worked as a project manager with many international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, and other NGOs. He had worked as a coordinator for water affairs, sewage, and hygiene with the WHO in Deir Ez-Zour city since 2022. [The WHO issued a statement mourning](#) his death. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
- On Tuesday, March 19, Delshad Abbas Ayyoub Hasni, a 17-year-old boy from Tal al-Deif village to the east of al-Qameshli city in northeastern rural Hasaka governorate, was shot dead by Iraqi Border Guard personnel in Iraq's Rabia city after crossing the Syrian-Iraqi border. The area from which Delshad came is under the Syrian Democratic Forces' (SDF) control.

B. Syrian regime forces

In March, Syrian regime forces killed **six civilians**, including one child and one woman, as well as one individual who died due to torture. Victims killed by regime forces accounted for about seven percent of all victims killed in March. These six victims were killed in several Syrian governorates: Three civilians were killed in Aleppo governorate, and one each in the governorates of Homs, Idlib, and Suwayda.

- On Thursday, February 28, Jawad al-Barouki, a 52-year-old man, was killed by indiscriminate gunfire by Syrian regime forces attempting to break up a demonstration by protestors who tried to enter a settlement center (a facility used by the regime to conduct official 'settlements' with citizens) in the center of Jawad's home city of Suwayda. Another protester, Walid al-Jawhari, was also mildly injured in the same indiscriminate regime gunfire. The area was under the control of regime forces at the time of the incident.
- On Saturday, March 9, Arifa Haydar Jammou, a 70-year-old woman, was killed and six other people were injured in an attack by Syrian regime artillery forces who fired shells targeting Kbashin in Sherawa village in northern Aleppo governorate. One of the shells hit a passenger bus as it was leaving the village, killing the woman and injuring the six other passengers, all members of the same family, three of them children. The bus was also moderately damaged in the attack. The area was under the control of the Syrian National Army (SNA) at the time of the incident.

C. SDF

In the month of March, nine civilians, including three children and two individuals who died due to torture, were killed at the hands of the SDF. Four of the nine victims were killed in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, three in Raqqa governorate, and two in Aleppo governorate. Six of the victims were shot dead by SDF patrolmen, while one was killed in an artillery attack, in addition to the two individuals who died due to torture.

On Saturday, March 2, [Ibrahim al-Abd al-Attaya, a 27-year-old man](#) from al-Qouriya city in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was shot dead by an SDF patrolmen, while on his way to tend to his agricultural land in Jazrat al-Melaj village in western rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The patrolmen were pursuing a fugitive when they shot Ibrahim. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

D. All armed opposition factions/SNA

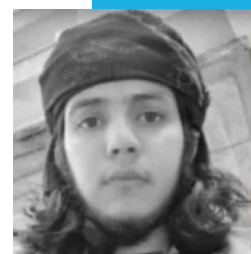
In the month of March, five civilians, including one child, were killed by all armed opposition factions/SNA. Four of the five civilians were killed in Aleppo governorate, and the fifth civilian was killed in Homs governorate.

On Thursday, March 7, [Omar Hamid al-Rahmoun, a 14-year-old boy](#) from Basqala village in southern rural Idlib governorate, was killed while two other boys from the same village, identified as Mohammad Ibrahim al-Mousa and Khaled Ahmad al-Rahmoun, were injured in an attack by SNA forces who targeted the three children using projectiles and machine guns as they were trying to reach areas under the control of the SDF via the axis of Mar'anaz village in northern rural Aleppo governorate. The area was under the control of the SNA at the time of the incident.

E. HTS

Two individuals died due to torture at the hands of the HTS in March, in the two governorates of Hama and Idlib.

On Sunday, March 10, the family of [Othman Salah Hannou](#), a man born in 2000 from al-Manakh neighborhood in Hama city, received an official notice from the HTS's General Security via a phone call that Othman had died in an HTS prison. This came after the group gave promises to the family through intermediary mediators that he will be released soon, as the family was able to find out that he was in Harem Central Prison and started demanding his release for months with no official response until March 10. According to the HTS, Othman died about three months ago. The HTS also told his wife that she needs to go into 'Udda' (A certain period of mourning ascribed in Islam for widowed women).



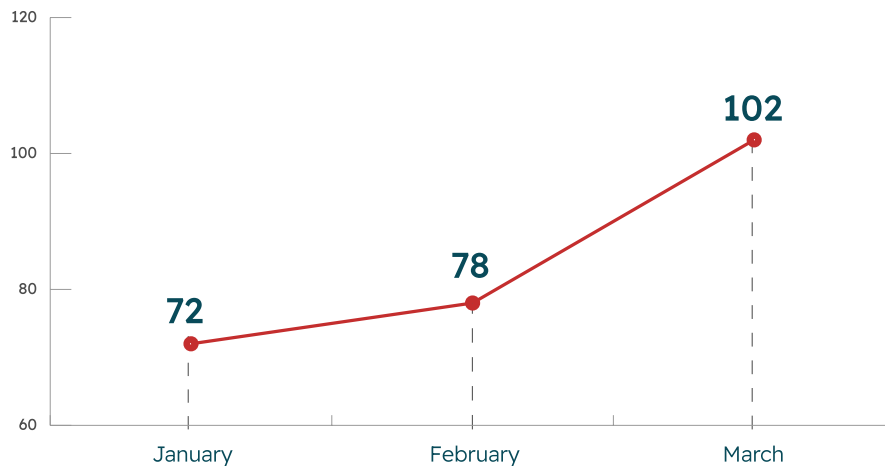
↑ 👁 Othman Salah Hannou

Othman was a former fighter with Jund al-Aqsa 'Soldiers of the Aqsa' faction, before joining the HTS, and then the Ansar al-Tawhid 'Supporters of Monotheism'. Subsequently, Othman retired from military life and stayed home before his arrest, which took place on January 27, 2022, at al-Andalus Restaurant in Idlib city over accusations of excessive woodcutting, looting and banditry. His dead body has not been returned to his family, and his burial location is still unknown. Othman received those charges as part on account of being part of what is known as Abu Bakr al-Siddeeq Battalion.

III. Civilian Death Toll in March 2024

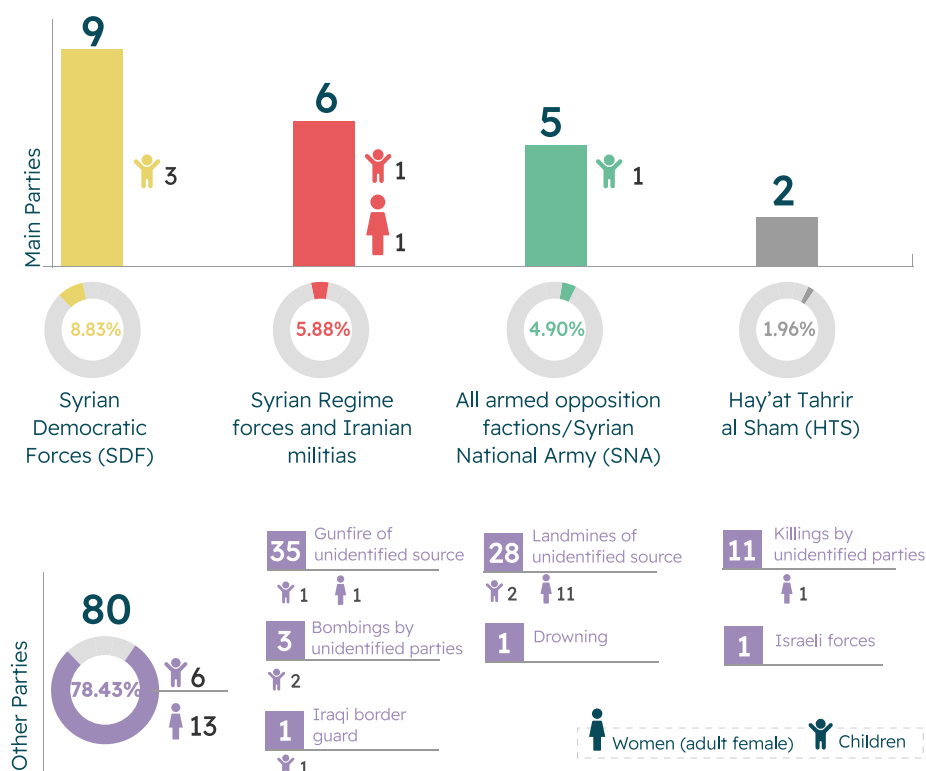
In March 2024, SNHR documented the killing of **102 civilians**, including 11 children and 14 women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, bringing the total number of civilian deaths since the start of the year, up until April, to 252 civilian deaths.

Civilian deaths documented since the beginning of 2024 are distributed by month as follows:



As the chart shows, March saw the highest number of civilian deaths in one month so far in 2024, accounting for about 40 percent of all deaths documented this year, while February accounted for about 31 percent, and January, which recorded the lowest monthly civilian death toll, accounted for about 29 percent.

Civilian documented in March 2024 are distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



A. Main parties:

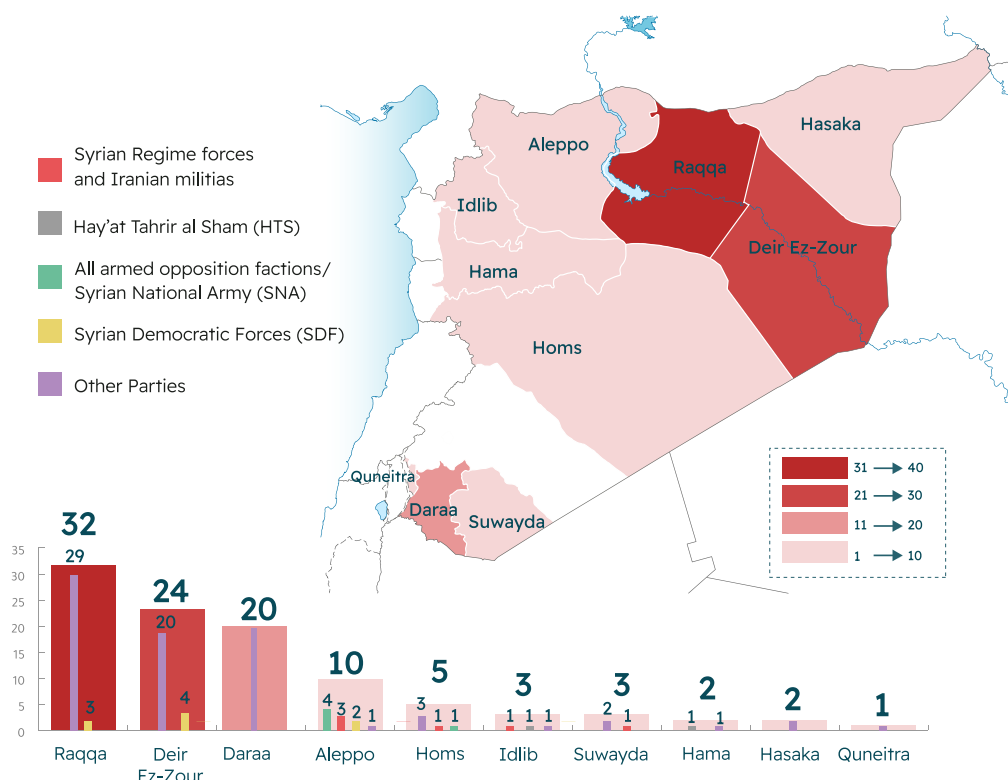
- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**
We documented the killing of six civilians, including one child and one woman, by Syrian regime forces.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):**
We documented the killing of two civilians by HTS.
- **All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA):**
We documented the killing of five civilians, including one child, by all armed opposition factions/SNA.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
We documented the killing of nine civilians, including three children, by the SDF.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of **80 civilians**, including six children and 13 women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unidentified sources: 28 civilians, including two children and 11 women.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 35 civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: Three civilians, including two children.
- Killings by unidentified parties: 11 civilians, including one woman.
- Israeli forces: One civilian.
- Iraqi Border Guard: One child.
- Drowning: One civilian.

Civilian deaths documented in March 2024 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

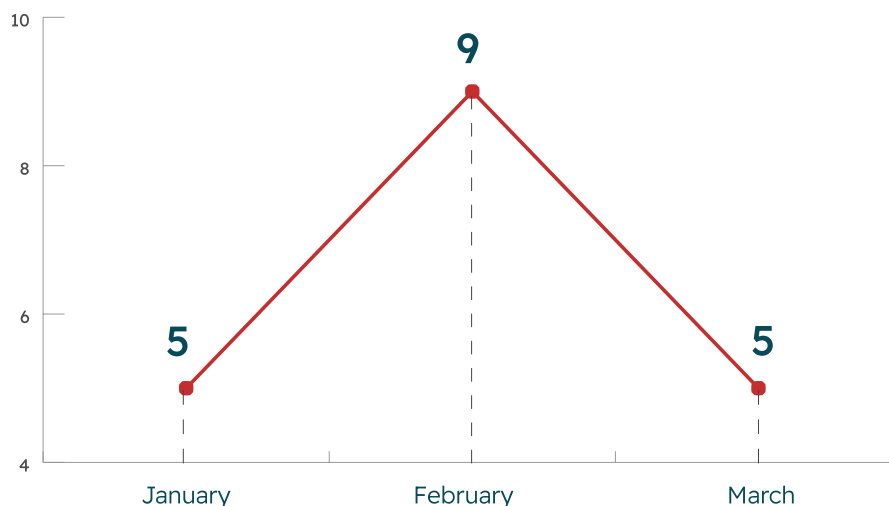


As the graph shows, Raqqa governorate saw the highest number of civilian deaths in March accounting for about 31 percent, with most of the victims killed in the governorate being killed by other parties. Raqqa governorate was followed by Deir Ez-Zour governorate which accounted for approximately 24 percent, and then Daraa with about 20 percent, with all of the victims killed in the governorate being killed at the hands of other parties.

V. Deaths due to Torture

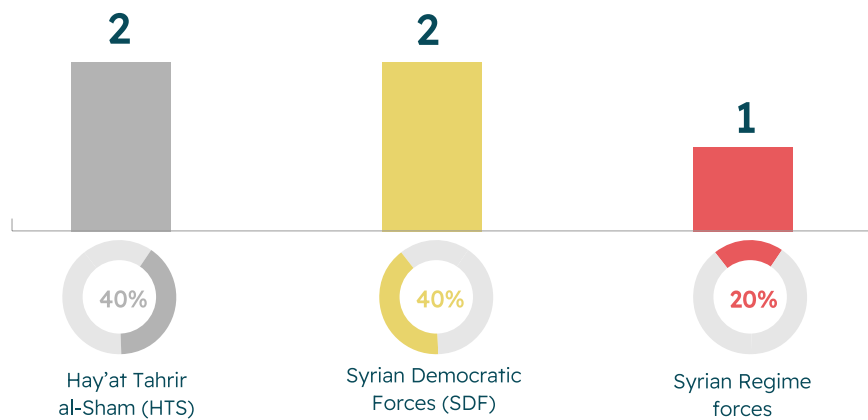
In March 2024, SNHR documented the deaths by torture of five individuals, at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. This brings the total number of victims who died due to torture since the beginning of 2024, up until April, to 19.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that were documented in 2024 so far are distributed as follows:



Syrian regime forces have been responsible for about 53 percent of all deaths due to torture recorded to date in 2024. In other words, over half of all victims who died due to torture in 2024 have died at the hands of regime forces. The month of February has seen the highest monthly number of deaths due to torture to date in 2024, accounting for about 47 percent of the total so far this year.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that we documented in March 2024 are distributed as follows:

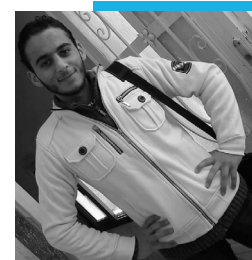


A. Main parties

- Syrian regime forces: One individual
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS): Two individuals.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): Two individuals

Below are the most notable cases:

[Amjad Walid Idrees](#), born in 1994, was a student at the Al Baath University's Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the time of his arrest by Syrian regime forces in 2014. Amjad, who was originally from al-Qsair city in rural Homs governorate, was arrested on Monday, March 31, 2014, by regime forces in front of the Immigration and Passport Department in Homs city. He has been forcibly disappeared ever since with the regime denying holding him and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him.



↑ 👁 Amjad Walid Idrees

On Monday, March 18, 2024, Amjad Idrees's family obtained a family statement from the state registry office which stated baldly that Amjad had died on April 9, 2014, providing no other details, including the place or cause of his death. We can confirm that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence. On March 21, 2024, [SNHR released a statement](#) condemning Amjad's 10-year-long enforced disappearance followed by regime authorities' registration of his death in the civil registry records.

Amjad rose to popular prominence with the start of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria in March 2011. He was known for his peaceful civilian activism, including the provision of relief and humanitarian aid through his volunteer work with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). He was also a member of one of the local coordination committees in Homs governorate, and a member of the 'General Commission of the Syrian Revolution', and worked with a number of local councils.

Abdul Razzaq Hafni al-Helal, from al-Mehsanli village, administratively a part of Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. He was 31 years old at the time of his arrest by personnel from the SDF's internal security division on Friday, January 10, 2020, in a raid on his house on al-Hazaouna neighborhood in southern Manbij city, where he was living at the time, over accusations of working with the SNA.

Abdul Razzaq was transferred multiple times among SDF detention centers. His last known transfer was to the Central Prison in Raqqa city in 2021.

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, the SDF's internal security division informed Abdul Razzaq's family of his death in the Central Prison in Raqqa city, returning his body, which showed clear signs of severe torture, to the family at al-Furat 'Euphrates' Hospital in Manbij city. On March 22, 2024, SNHR obtained a number of photos and video clips explicitly showing the marks of brutal torture Abdul Razzaq had suffered in detention.

IV. Deaths among medical personnel

In March, we documented the killing of one medical worker at the hands of other parties.

On Sunday, March 3, 2024, pharmacist [Mohammad Izzou al-Izzou](#) was shot dead by unidentified gunmen while he was at work in his pharmacy in al-Blan area of his home city of al-Rastan in northern rural Homs governorate.



↑ 👁 Mohammad Izzou al-Izzou

VI. Most Notable Massacres

In March 2024, SNHR documented two massacres at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. This brings the total number of massacres documented in Syria since the start of 2024 to seven.

The massacres documented in March 2024 are distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. Other parties: Two massacres

- Landmines of unidentified source: One massacre.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: One massacre.

A total of 21 civilians, including 11 women, were killed in the massacres documented in March 2024.

Below are the most notable massacres:

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, a landmine of as yet unidentified source killed 12 civilians, including 11 women, when it exploded under the car transporting them between the villages of al-Shreida and al-Sabkha in eastern rural Raqqqa governorate while they were on their way to gather desert truffles. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



↑👁 A car that was transporting civilian workers who were going to harvest desert truffles was detonated by a landmine in the badiya or desert area around al-Sabkha in rural Raqqqa on March 16, 2024

Massacres from the History of the Popular Uprising for Democracy in Syria

In this month: March

- ▶ On Thursday, March 26, 2015, a total of **27 individuals**, including three children, were killed in an artillery attack by Syrian regime forces that fired two mortal shells at Daraa al-Balad neighborhood in Daraa. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Thursday, February 31, 2016, a total of **13 individuals**, including three children and two women, were killed, while another 20 were injured, in an aerial attack by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that fired two missiles at the medical dispensary in Deir al-Asafeer town in Rural Damascus 'Rif Dimshaq' governorate. Overall, the airstrikes targeting the town on that day **killed 31 individuals**, including 12 children and nine women. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at around 03:25, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired a missile at a residential building in al-Qosour neighborhood in southern Idlib city, **killing 25 civilians**, including 16 children and six women. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at around 15:15, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired three missiles at the Idlib Central Prison in western Idlib city, **killing 31 prisoners**. Later at 17:15 on that day, the same air force bombarded al-Kasih area in the middle of Idlib city, firing eight missiles in total. Two of the missiles hit a residential building by the Social Security building (used by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) as a military outpost), to **kill 12 civilians**, including **five children** (three girls and two boys) and one woman. Another missile landed between residential building by the Electricity Institution about 250 meters from the location of the massacre, killing another **four civilians** from the same family (one boy, one girl, and their grandparents). Idlib city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.

Recalling the massacre, media worker Ahmad Rahhal told SNHR:¹

“I was among the first to arrive at the site. The destruction to the residential buildings and the Electricity Station was massive. Fires were everywhere, and the damage was too great. Rescue teams arrived and started pulling the martyrs from the nearby building, from the headquarters of the Salvation Government. They pulled the bodies of over 10 martyrs.”

1. Via WhatsApp on March 16, 2019.



Destruction to the Central Power Station in Idlib city, known as al-Kasih Power Station, following a missile attack by fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian - March 3, 2019

VII. The Syrian Regime Has Failed to Register Hundreds of Thousands of Citizens It Killed Since March 2011 in the Civil Registry's Death Records

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, 'disappeared' or gone missing since the early days of the popular uprising in March 2011, they have not been officially registered as dead by the relevant official state authority, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime unconscionably controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to victims' families, whether the victims were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties, or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared. In fact, the regime only allows death certificates to be issued for those who meet the narrow criteria set by the regime and its security services. In many previous reports, we have discussed the phenomenon of the regime's forcing victims' families to sign false statements written by the security authorities beforehand, stating falsely that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the regime, killed their loved ones, if they wish to obtain a death certificate. The Syrian regime has not only failed to launch any investigations into the causes of death for hundreds of thousands of Syrians but has also failed to hold to account even one member of its security or military forces for their involvement in these killings.

In order to obtain a death certificate, the Syrian regime relies on three things:

- Medical reports prepared by regime personnel, citing a false cause of death, such as a heart attack for those forcibly disappeared in its detention centers, or claiming falsely that the victim died as a result of injuries from war munitions.
- Statements from the local neighborhood headman or 'Mukhtar' and any witnesses, who are asked to confirm the death.
- Acknowledgement from the victims' families, who often urgently need to obtain a death certificate; for this reason, family members understandably feel they have no choice but to remain silent about the true cause of their loved ones' deaths and the identity of those responsible for them.

Through our exhaustive monitoring and investigation process, we have been able to document three methods used by the Syrian regime to register the deaths of a limited number of its victims who were killed, or forcibly disappeared then subsequently killed, which we detailed in a report we issued on August 19, 2022, entitled 'The Syrian Regime, Through Its Security Services and State Institutions, Controls the Incidents of Registering the Deaths of Victims Killed/'Disappeared' in the Armed Conflict Since March 2011'.

It should be noted that the vast majority of victims' families are unable to obtain death certificates for their loved ones from the Syrian regime, for fear of linking their name with that of a person who was detained by the regime and killed under torture, which implies that their deceased family member had been a dissident who had opposed the Syrian regime, or had been registered as a 'terrorist' if he or she had been wanted by the security services. Additionally, many victims' families have been forcibly displaced outside the areas controlled by the Syrian regime.

On August 10, 2022, the Syrian regime government's Minister of Justice issued [Circular No. 22](#) specifying the procedures for the conduct of proceedings related to registering deaths at Sharia courts. The circular included new conditions stipulating that five items of evidence must be submitted to and approved by the relevant judges in proceedings related to registering the death. It also requires that all relevant courts involved in death registration cases comply with the circular's content. The circular also gave security clearance to judicial authorities empowering them to register death cases, increasing the security services' intrusion. We issued [a report](#) in which we analyzed the constitutional and legal violations contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

VIII. What is SNHR Doing About the Extrajudicial Killing Issue?

Since 2011, SNHR has been developing complex programs to archive and categorize the victims' data, which the team collects and verifies, enabling us to catalogue the victims according to their gender, age, the date and place of death, the method of killing and type of weapon used, and the perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which each death occurred, and according to the governorate from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the losses suffered by the people of that governorate, enabling us to accurately ascertain the highest rates of violence documented in the case of each violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates the network's comprehensive database, with all the data added to the SNHR's database being retained securely, and several backup copies being stored in different locations.

Since 2011, we have also been exceptionally concerned with the documentation of incidents involving the killing of children and women; there is hardly any statistic recorded on our database that does not include victims in either category and usually in both, due to the vulnerability of these groups in the community, and because they give an indication of the rate of targeting of civilians. We later added other civilian groups which have played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, and humanitarian aid personnel, and Civil Defense rescue workers.

For nearly 13 years, we have issued [daily death tolls of victims](#), as well as [daily news reports](#) on killing incidents. We also issue a [monthly report](#) detailing the death toll of victims, whose deaths were documented in Syria during the previous month, amongst civilians, as well as of those who died [due to torture](#), in addition to issuing a biannual report and annual report, as well as dozens of other special reports [documenting the total death toll](#) or the death toll at the hands of one of the parties to the conflict in particular, in addition to a [monthly report](#) and special and periodic reports documenting the [massacres](#) committed on Syrian soil.

We have also turned the victims' database into a map and interactive charts accessible on our website, which categorize the victims by governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. There are also charts detailing the death toll of victims killed at the hands of all parties to the conflict, as well as others giving information on specific groups, such as specifically detailing the death toll among women and children victims, with all of these being updated regularly.

SNHR also periodically submits special forms to the United Nations [Special Rapporteur](#) on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as well as to the Special Rapporteur on torture, submitting cases of killings on which we were able to document all of the available data, having obtained the consent of each victim's family members before submitting them.

It should be noted that the United Nations has relied on SNHR for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources. SNHR also has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSDB\)](#) project, which stipulated the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. SNHR has also partnered with numerous United Nations bodies, in addition to various states' governments, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to serve the justice process, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by numerous Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

IX. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- The evidence we have collected regarding incidents involving deaths indicates that the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes of extrajudicial killings, including fatal torture. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- A large proportion of the Syrians killed died as a result of landmine explosions, with none of the perpetrator forces involved in the Syrian conflict issuing maps revealing the locations where landmines were planted. This indicates a chilling total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, particularly children.
- The Syrian regime has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2139 and 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
- The use of remote bombings to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal mindset intent on deliberately inflicting the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva VI Convention, Articles 27, 31, and 32.
- We have documented cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various controlling forces against the populations under their control, which constitute serious violation of international human rights law.

Recommendations

UN Security Council

- The Security Council should take additional steps following the adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly demands that all parties should, *"...Immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment."*
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes should be held accountable.
- Members of the Security Council must stop using their veto to protect the Syrian regime, which has committed hundreds of thousands of violations over the past ten years, many of which constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Establish security and peace in Syria and implement the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm (R2P) in order to preserve Syrians' lives, heritage, and cultural artifacts from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide humanitarian and food aid and medical assistance in areas where the fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons' camps, and follow up with those states that have pledged the necessary contributions.
- Seriously work to achieve a political transition under the Geneva Communiqué and Security Council Resolution No. 2254, to ensure the stability and territorial integrity of Syria, and enable the dignified and safe return of refugees and IDPs.
- Allocate a significant amount of money for clearing mines left over by the Syrian conflict from the United Nations Mine Action Service, particularly in areas prepared to carry out this task with transparency and integrity.

International Community

- In light of the split within the UN Security Council and its utter incapability, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people and increase support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be applied in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine (R2P) in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were exhausted, with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana talks that followed proving equally fruitless. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the norm of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The UN Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.

- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, or quickly establish a tribunal dedicated to trying crimes against humanity and war crimes to end the cycle of impunity that has now continued for 13 years in Syria.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.
- Work to launch projects to create maps revealing the locations of landmines and cluster munitions in all Syrian governorates. This would facilitate the process of clearing them and educating the population about their locations.
- Support the political transition process and impose pressure to compel the parties to implement the political transition within a period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely return to their homes without fear.
- Prevent and end any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be extremely unsafe, and put pressure on the Syrian regime to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the violations mentioned in this report and previous reports and should shed greater light on the issue of the continuing killing in Syria.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch extensive investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within its next report.
- Work on identifying the responsibility of individuals within the Syrian regime who are involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, publish their names to expose them to international public condemnation, and end all dealings with them at every political and economic level.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report, and facilitate an exchange of experience and expertise with Syrian organizations working in the field of documentation, data collection and analysis.

The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of these crimes and of the massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the transitional governing body.
- Call for rapid implementation of democratic political change that restores victims' rights and embodies the principles of transitional justice.
- There is no sense in pursuing any political process in light of the continued bombing of hospitals and theft of UN aid, and the pursuit of a zero-security military solution by the Syrian regime and its allies, and the UN Envoy must acknowledge this.
- Clearly assign responsibility to the parties responsible for the death of the political process, and disclose to the Syrian people the timing of the end of the political transition process.

Syrian regime

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of tens of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the regime planted landmines, especially in civilian areas or near residential communities.

Russian regime

- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in the Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations, and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the disposal of unexploded ordnance.

The Coalition (US-led coalition and SDF)

- The states supporting the SDF should cease all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states.
- The SDF should form a special committee to investigate incidents of violations committed by SDF forces, disclose the details of their findings and apologize for them, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and affected.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the SDF has planted landmines, especially in civilian sites or near residential communities.

All Armed Opposition factions/SNA

- Ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Launch investigations into the human rights violations that have taken place, hold those responsible accountable and make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

Humanitarian organizations

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons, particularly widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts towards carrying out landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.

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No justice without accountability

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